

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-12, 15, 16, 18-21 and 26-30 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 26-30 have been amended, and claims 1, 13, 14, 17 and 25 have been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the "Status of Claims" section of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-7, 15, 16, 18 and 26-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, claims 19-21 are indicated as being allowed.

Without conceding the outstanding rejections, the claims have been amended according to the indication of allowable subject matter to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, claims 1, 13, 14, 17 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 15, 16, 18 and 26-30 have been rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claims 2, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Applicant thus respectfully submits that the rejections are moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

McINTYRE
Appl. No. 09/828,226
December 9, 2009

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Alan M. Kagen/
 Alan M. Kagen
 Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100